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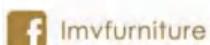


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CONTRIBUTOR OF THE MONTH

YASEMIN RICHIECO-FOUNDER AND CREATIVE
DIRECTOR OF YASEMIN RICHIE

Originally from London, Yasemin Richie is a celebrated and award-winning interior designer and artist based in Dubai. Having studied interior, lighting and furniture design at Chelsea College of Art & Design, Yasemin is also an alumnus of the London College of Fashion.

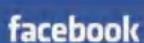
In addition to interior design projects, Yasemin launched her eponymous brand in 2010 and has released work in collaboration with Saks Fifth Avenue, Paul Smith, DIFF and Bloomingdale's Home and has exhibited alongside British artist Damien Hirst. The luxury brand offers private, commercial and high-profile clients interior design services alongside bespoke furniture and a retail range of eclectic home accessories and art.

Yasemin's conceptual art is quirky, quite often decadent, with touches of nostalgia, giving style conscious clients the opportunity to add expression to their interiors.

www.yaseminrichie.com

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Merry Christmas!

As the countdown to Christmas gets into full swing, we have a jam-packed issue full of festive fun for you and your home! Our bumper gift guide (P64) has something for all the family, including a few things that you may want to treat yourself to. If you're looking for the top decorating trends this Christmas, or just for the best buys and ideas for your home, then check out our pick of the best styles starting with Crate and Barrel's Christmas collection (P54).

Our real homes this issue are Yasemin Richie's chic Palm apartment, which she has decorated in a fun and funky style that is unique to the designer. Dina Murali shows us around her family home in Jebel Ali Gardens and further afield, we take a look at a Scandi-inspired festive home in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside (P46).

After all the decorating, thoughts turn to festive food this month but fear not! We have compiled the best offerings, from restaurants around Dubai, from stress-free turkey takeaways to alfresco dining, there's something for everyone (P68).

If you want to get away this month and celebrate Christmas from the comfort of a hotel, we check in to the sophisticated Waldorf Astoria on the Palm in Dubai and, internationally, we look around the charming and cosy Loch Lomond Arms Hotel situated on the beautiful banks of the namesake loch in Luss, Scotland (P74).

We hope that you enjoy the issue and have merry and peaceful festive season.

See you in 2016!



Follow me
@RosalindErskine

R

ROSALIND

THIS MONTH'S WISHLIST...



THE DETAILS

1. Stacy sequin clutch, Dhs440, Kate Spade
2. Sophia Webster Chiara boots, Dhs3,050, Bloomingdale's
3. Long wear cream shadow stick, Dhs176, Bobbi Brown
4. Peacock wreath, Dhs499, Indigo Living
5. Apsin candle, Dhs335, Diptyque
6. Tanssi glass baubles, Dhs140, Jashanmal
7. Printed flare dress, Dhs995, Bebe



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Danube Home
Mushriff Mall

Al Safi Décor
Airport Road

Abu Dhabi Blinds
www.abudhabiblinds.com

Sharjah

Danube Home
Al Wahda Street



HOLIDAY MUST- HAVE

Kate Spade's seasonal collection includes great gift ideas from Luggage Satchel bags to pretty printed dresses. Top of our wishlist is this eye-catching Virginia Lace dress, Dhs1,670. www.katespade.com

THIS JUST IN...

ROUNDUP OF THIS MONTH'S NEWS AND BUYS

QUIRKY ADDITIONS

Make a statement with Lulu Guinness's collection of fun bags, scarves, keyrings and purses. The designer's iconic monochrome style adorned with faces and lips, such as this Grace Glitter pouch, Dhs600, will make for stylish gifts this Christmas.

www.luluguinness.com



Pretty Palette

Give the gift of magical makeup this Christmas with Bobbi Brown's range of holiday gift sets. We love this cute Caviar mini lip and eye palette, Dhs220. The collection also includes limited edition eye sets, travel brushes, a beauty case and a shimmer brick.

www.bobbibrown-me.com



CONTEMPORARY HOME

Decorate your home in style thanks to Silsal Design House's collection of timeless homewares. Perfect as a gift (or to treat yourself to), the range includes accessories such as storage boxes, bowls and decorative plates.

www.silsal.com



CHIC CHAIR

Burgundy Designs has recently launched this stylish Santa's chair, Dhs13,500. Available in pairs, the French-style throne-inspired design has been upholstered with red maple leaf embossed embroidery and is sure to create a festive feature in any home.

www.burgundy-designs.com



AL-FRESCO DECO

Create a sparkling festive atmosphere in the garden or patio with this durable, 3D, Fairybell tree, from Dhs699 from Desert River. Designed in the Netherlands, the tree is made up of warm white LED lights set on to an aluminium pole, creating a contemporary, illuminated tree.

www.desertriver.com

RED ALERT

Add a splash of colour to your favourite festive outfit with Ciate's range of seasonal nail polishes, Dhs70. The top five colours for Christmas range from Mistress, a bright, pillar-box red (pictured) to more subtle metallic hues, such as Fit for a Queen. Available now from Sephora, Marks and Spencer and House of Fraser.

www.ciatelondon.com



MYSTERIOUS CHRISTMAS

Iittala's Christmas range for 2015 has been illustrated with Klaus Haapaniemi's visual patterns of whimsical animals such as foxes and deer. The collection goes well with the classics from Kastehelmi, Teema, Taika and Nappula, which are available in deep red shades for the festive season. Both ranges are available now from Jashanmal.

www.jashanmalgroup.com; www.iittala.com



GLASS ACT

Ikea has recently launched a new, limited edition, collection of co-ordinated designs, which include these assorted jugs, Dhs75 each. The Sittning range is perfect for laid-back dining as it allows for an effortless way to create stylish table settings as the pieces all work together no matter how and when you use them.

www.ikea.com/ae

THREE OF THE BEST...

Christmas Stars



Vinter candle dish,
Dhs5, Ikea



Gold pinecone
decoration, Dhs155,
Zara Home



Tree decorations,
Dhs99 for 100,
Home Centre

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Head to H&M Home for on-trend, seasonal updates for your interior. Their festive homewares includes cool cushions, decadent decorations (at affordable prices), candles, vases and cosy throws.
www.hm.com/ae

THIS JUST IN...

Green Dream

Brighten up your living or dining room with this Dream lamp, Dhs4,575, from Al Huzaifa's latest collection.
www.alhuzaifa.com



Blush Bag

Any fashionista will love this Jimmy Choo pink metallic embellished clutch, Dhs4,070 from The Luxury Closet. Perfect as a gift, the clutch will add some feminine style to a little black dress.
www.theluxurycloset.com



**WARM GLOW**

Create a welcoming festive table centrepiece with these pretty grey Shadow Star votives, Dhs131 (for five) from Blanc D'Ivoire Dubai.
www.blancdivoredubai.com

**FEELING DANDY**

Western Furniture has just launched its latest collection from Italian Gamma Arredamenti; Dandy Home. The range, styled by Giuseppe Vigano, includes timeless leather chairs such as the Harley pair (pictured), a sophisticated Sacai modular sofa and a contemporary armchair.
www.westernfurniture.ae



Great Gift

Aati has recently launched its new range that includes beautiful accessories, such as this collection of glass decanters, from Dhs400. Perfect for every home lover.
www.aati.ae

**SEASONAL SCENT**

Jo Malone's festive collection is out now and includes many gorgeous gifts for you and your home. Their deluxe, warm-scented Christmas candle for this year is Roasted Chestnut, Dhs990, which is presented in a beautiful green mistletoe printed glass jar.
www.jomalone-me.com

**BAKE OFF**

Present seasonal cakes and pies on this cute Christmas Baubles cake stand, Dhs23 from Lakeland.
www.lakeland.ae

**MICRO TREND***Winter Warmers*

Chinchilla throw,
Dhs399, THE ONE



Zayan The Label Jasmine faux
fur clutch, Dhs735, s*uce



Faux fur cushion,
Dhs79, H&M HOME

Wool rug,
Dhs1,995,
Zara Home.

**CHAIR TALES**

Bring home a piece of cinematic art with this Scarface armchair, designed by Yasemin Richie, Dhs7,500. The customised piece, which was originally made to showcase her work at an art event in collaboration with Paul Smith, consists of a hand carved vintage frame, which was rescued from the small sleepy town of Dibba outside Dubai and has been lovingly restored, hand painted and re-upholstered in a luxurious digitally printed faux-suede. The soft pink abstract fabric design is a modified textile based on Yasemin's limited edition art piece A Storyline inspired by Scarface.

www.yaseminrichie.com

DELICATE DESIGN

Add some pretty style to your living room or bedroom with this Mensch Made lace side table, Dhs1,610 from The Design Shop by s*uce.

www.shopatsauce.com

**TIMELESS COLLABORATIONS**

To celebrate 15 years of collaborations, The Rug Company and Paul Smith have designed a new collection of hand-knotted rugs and this eye-catching Zig Zag cushion, Dhs2,889. The collection designs are a collision of geometry and colour and will be at home within a contemporary scheme.

www.therugcompany.com

**THIS JUST IN...****ASIAN INSPIRATION**

Wakame, a new Asian-inspired restaurant and concept bar, has just opened in the Sofitel, Downtown Dubai. Set within a contemporary space, the menu explores all the tastes and traditions of Asia, and is prepared by a team of expert chefs.

www.wakame.ae

**METALLIC ACCENTS**

Easily update your entertaining with Party Camel's range of fun and quirky table accessories such as plates, cups, cake toppers and much more. Available in a range of designs, from Christmas to these on-trend metallics (perfect for a New Year dinner or party), there is something for all celebrations.

www.partycamel.com

**CREATIVE COLOUR**

Banish roots and keep coloured hair healthy this festive season thanks to Color Wow's range of specialised products, which include these handy Root Cover Up palettes, Dhs210.

www.colorwowhair.com



Limited Edition Gifts



FESTIVE FUN

Clas Ohlson introduces their Christmas collection for 2015, which includes essentials such as fairy lights, wrapping paper and decorations.

www.clasohlson.com

BATHROOM ADDITIONS

Beautiful bathroom specialist Kohler recently introduced innovative new products during Dubai's Downtown Design fair. Updates include the Veil wall-hung toilet, DTV Plus and this contemporary new Kallista tap, now available in rose gold.

www.me.kohler.com



Luxe Living

Introduce some rock 'n' roll, glamorous style to your decor thanks to THE One's latest collection, Rebel Luxe. The edgy range includes metallic accessories and dark grey and black furnishings, which are perfect for a dramatic living room.

www.theone.com



Be Bold

Estee Lauder has recently launched a new range of matte lipsticks, the Pure Colour Envy collection, Dhs180. With shades ranging from rich purples to fiery oranges and classic reds, such as this Decisive Poppy, there will be one to suit all complexions and with the Advanced True Vision technology, the colours are all rich, bold and intensely mattified.

www.esteeleauder-me.com



Party Shoes

Update your Christmas wardrobe with these studded Valentino heels, Dhs3,420 from Bloomingdale's.

www.bloomingdales.com





DECO UPDATE

CREATE A CHIC CHRISTMAS SCHEME THIS MONTH WITH THESE TOP DECORATING BUYS...

WARM WELCOME

Go for warm gold tones and soft lighting for decorating this Christmas, and for something different, try displaying your tree in the hallway for some added wow factor in welcoming guests. We love this tree and decorations, from a selection, at Indigo Living.

www.indigo-living.com



GO FOR GOLD

These mini baubles, Dhs11, from IKEA, will look right at home on a garland or mixed together with other colours in a clear vase on the hearth or dining table.

www.ikea.com/ae



ADDED EXTRA

Bring some festive style to your living room with a bright, decorative cushion such as this red Flurry design, Dhs285 from Crate and Barrel.

www.crateandbarrel.com



PRETTY PAPER

Hang paper decorations from doorways or staircase bannisters for an instant festive update. These Silver Stars, Dhs49 from Party Camel are a great Christmas addition and the kids will love them.

www.partycamel.com



CHIC SILVER

Tealight holders will always create a warm glow in a room or as part of a table decoration. This silver Noel holder, Dhs20 from Lakeland, is perfect for a contemporary look.

www.lakeland.ae



OH DEER

Add some sparkle to a table centre with this cute gold deer, Dhs149 from Home Centre.

www.homecentrestores.com

SPELL IT OUT

Decorate a garland with these sweet shadow baubles, Dhs35, Blanc DiVoire Dubai.

www.blancdivoiredubai.com



LIGHT UP

Use fairy lights all over your home this Christmas to create a gorgeous glow. These gold net lights, Dhs155, from Zara Home will look lovely on a garland or piled into a clear vase.

www.zarahome.com

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THE DETAILS

1. **Snowy Wood Christmas and winter collections**, from a selection, Marks and Spencer
2. **Wool turtleneck jumper**, Dhs290, Cos
3. **Frosted pinecone wreath**, Dhs385, House of Fraser
4. **Reindeer plush decoration**, Dhs59, Ace
5. **Metal antlers hanger**, Dhs89, H&M Home
6. **Faux fur stole**, Dhs65, New Look
7. **Faux fur throw**, Dhs1,550, Ethan Allen
8. **Snowflake decorations**, Dhs59 for two, H&M Home
9. **Saddle bag**, Dhs365, Kingsley Heath
10. **Reindeer tealight holder**, Dhs90, House of Fraser
11. **Folded clutch bag**, Dhs320, Cos
12. **Tartan deer cushion**, Dhs210, Debenhams
13. **Faux fur cream cushion**, Dhs79, H&M Home
14. **Twig tree decoration**, Dhs165, Marks and Spencer
15. **Camel jacket**, Dhs320, Cos
16. **Glitter reindeer**, Dhs29, Ace
17. **Baobab Lodge fragrance reed diffuser**, Dhs735, Cities
18. **Tartan present tree decoration**, Dhs19, Ace
19. **Cavett loveseat**, Dhs6,999, Crate and Barrel
20. **Snowflake decoration**, Dhs59, H&M Home
21. **Cream belted cardigan**, Dhs159, New Look
22. **Large bag of acrons**, Dhs19, Crate and Barrel

7.



LEFT: MULBERRY SHOW AT LONDON FASHION WEEK AUTUMN/WINTER 2012 AT CLARIDGE'S HOTEL (PHOTO BY GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES). ABOVE: BASHAQI'S SHOW DURING MERCEDES BENZ FASHION WEEK ISTANBUL AW15 (PHOTO BY ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY IMAGES FOR IMG).

DRAMATIC HIDEAWAY





Dina Murali has set key statement pieces against a background of colour and texture for a cosy yet striking scheme.

Words: LAURIE DAVIDSON Photography: AASIYA JAGADEESH



Life is an adventure and who says it has to stop the minute you get home? This motto from interior designer Dina Murali perfectly sums up her attitude when it came to decorating her own place – a two-bedroom apartment that she's filled with a plethora of colour and creativity. Located in The Gardens, a family-orientated residential community located next to Dubai's Jebel Ali, the apartment is set amid lush green surroundings and winding pathways and parks, which appealed to Dina and husband Zain immediately. "The greenery is what attracted us to move here, as we originally come from India and love that it reminds us of our country," says Dina. "Plus it has great recreation facilities and accessibility to schools, and is barely 10-15 minutes from our work places."

The couple bought the apartment in August 2011, moving in with three-year-old daughter Zaara, while Dina was pregnant with youngest daughter Aaira. "The minute I stepped inside, I was thinking of the various possibilities of converting the place into our home," she recalls. "I have been an interior designer for the past 12 years (I am currently a Design Director at DZ Design) and have designed various client homes through their eyes. The process is surreal yet very satisfying. For our own home, I wanted a style that would grow with us - with me as a person and us as a family. It needed to serve its purpose as an intimate space for Zain and I, a play area for the kids, and a party venue when we have friends over."

It took the couple three weeks to complete everything, from painting the walls, assembling furniture and finally accessorising. "My style is a combination of classical and modern pieces," explains Dina. "I love mixing metallic accents and strong colours with modern furniture." A perfect example of this is the dining room, Dina's favourite



Above: Dina chose the tan sofa in the living room to contrast nicely with the dark wall behind. Right: Images of Dina, Zain and the girls have been set into frames in the shape of an 'F' for family. Far right: In the dining room, Dina has placed a white orchid on the table to fall in line with the pendant above, creating a sense of symmetry to the table and the space around.

space in the apartment. "The dining room is the first room you walk into and it was important to me to create a soulful ambience at the entrance," she explains. "The black wall on the left has a console table with gold and white artwork above it - that artwork has been with me for over eight years now and I've painted and repainted it according to the theme of the room, making it an essential piece whenever I redo or renovate our home. I kept our previous dining table and bought new chairs; in fact, I have reused as much of our existing furniture as I could. Be it for our morning tea or evening dinner, the dining table is the main hub of activity where we catch up on the day's events, have food and just hang out as a family."

To the right of the dining room sits the living space, with its multi-coloured carpet and cushions that catch the eye and add interest. Two sofas - one



brown and one tan – have been strategically placed, with the tan design framed by another black wall, this time filled with family portraits on what Dina refers to as the 'family' wall. Images of Dina, Zain and the girls create a story board of major events in their lives, adding a beautifully personal touch. "The photos here have been with us for years," says Dina, "from the time I met Zain to the time we had our youngest daughter. It's these fond memories and personal pieces that make our home special."

Splashes of colour have been used throughout – in the master bedroom, for example, crisp white bedding and pillows are enlivened with a pop of blue from the cushions and lampshade. A red and blue-coloured artwork behind the bed, created by Dina, pulls the scheme together. "My advice is to think differently and be yourself when it comes to decorating," she advises. 'A house is a home because you live in it, so make it yours. I love playing with colour and like to have fun with it. However, when it comes to children's rooms, I only accessorise with colour, keeping the furniture neutral. Children grow quickly and their likes and dislikes change drastically too, so it is important that they have a room that grows with them.'

True to her word, in the girls' bedroom Dina has kept the furniture predominantly white, with colour introduced in the way of bunting and art on the walls, cushions and rugs. Prints include those of Dora, Tom and Jerry and their current favourite, My Little Pony, while a three-layered bunk bed doubles up as a guest bed when the family have friends over.

“The dining table is the main hub of activity where we catch up on the day’s events, have food and just hang out as a family.”





"I've used furniture from various sources," says Dina, "from Ikea to custom-made sofas and curtains. I love it when people walk into our apartment and wonder how we managed to make it all look so cohesive - even our plants and planters reflect the theme of the space!"

"Sometimes people ask what inspired me to create a space with black-painted walls - which in fact, does not make the room smaller, but has enhanced the white surrounding it. To me, it's like walking into an inviting, cosy little inn with a fireplace! Like the ones often described in fables and fairy tales. I am a private person, and this is my hideaway

from the busy world. It's stylish yet understated. It transforms my mood from the bright energetic mornings to cosy, relaxed evenings. I create interiors that inspire me, and our home definitely does that. It inspires me to do better work, to love more, laugh more and live a bit more. It is our family's happy space, and we love being at home spending time with each other, be it cooking a family meal, playing a board game or just watching television.

"I love the feeling when I come home after a long day at work. Every evening, I walk in and see our home the way I had imagined it and that feels very fulfilling."

www.dzdae.com



Left: Dina created the colourful artwork behind the bed herself, to pull the scheme together. Below: The girls' bedroom has been given a cosy, playful touch with soft furnishings and fun accessories.



"A house is a home because you live in it, so make it yours. I love playing with colour and like to have fun with it."



Get the look

Pops of colour and pattern add some fun to this unique home.



THE DETAILS

1. Black dining set, Dhs1,695, Homes R Us
2. Oka film light, Dhs1,118, Oscarandeve.co.uk
3. Kravet Jazz sofa, Dhs41,230, En Vogue
4. Poang armchair, Dhs695, and Lappijung Ruta cushion, Dhs45, both Ikea
5. Kiana chevron cushion, Dhs99, Kas
6. White photo frame, Dhs7, Daiso
7. Durand filled cushion, Dhs79, Home Centre
8. Black and white chevron cushion, Dhs75, Cushandco.com.au
9. The Line Collection chest of drawers, POA, Nada Debs
10. Traditional silver tray, Dhs980, Ethan Allen

Perfectly PEACHY

A subtle colour scheme, unusual objects and statement pieces of art have been used to give Yasemin Richie's Dubai apartment a unique personality that matches that of its stylish owner.

Words: LAURIE DAVIDSON Photography: AASIYA JAGADEESH



The main bedroom has been decorated in a soft shade of peachy-pink, adding a feminine feel to the room, which has been picked up in the pretty bed linen and French-style furniture. A chrome ladder stands against a wall as a decorative touch.

At first glance you'd be forgiven for thinking that Yasemin Richie's Christmas style is traditional, with the conventional wreath, festive tree and table centrepiece as expected. On closer inspection, however, you may discover the slight twists on these classics – the Christmas tree is topped with a camel instead of the usual star, baubles are replaced with glittered skulls and the wreath on the front door is made up of blue and black peacock feathers. Even the dining table centrepiece is an animal skull-turned-flower arrangement. "I don't know exactly what animal the skull is from," admits Yasemin, "but it's got a kind of 'Dia de Muertos' feel to it. I love decorating for Christmas – I have pieces with sentimental value that I use every year, and then other fun pieces that always change. This year the colours are soft pinks, rustic golds and bronzes."

This mix and match ethos between old and new, quirky and girlie, is something that Yasemin has continued throughout the one-bedroom apartment she shares with husband Richard and their



Above: Touches of purple add colour to the elegant living room, while decorations from Yasemin's travels add a sentimental touch to the Christmas festivities. Right: Colourful floral displays add impact to the rustic dining table, made from old railway sleepers.



two dogs, Ronnie and Reggie, on the Palm Jumeirah, Dubai. "Philippe Starck is one of my favourite interior designers and what attracts me to his work is the combination of the uber modern with the traditional," she explains. "When it comes to personal style, though, my ultimate inspiration comes from Alexander McQueen - I think he was a real visionary. My personal style tends to veer towards being slightly edgy and I think this has transferred into my interior style; I like the contrast of hard imagery such as skulls and medieval gauntlets, teamed with soft colours, florals, luxurious chandeliers, and even a vase of pussy willow!"

With her last home having been full of colour, Yasemin was keen to incorporate softer shades into her latest abode. Subtle greys, blush pinks and mauves feature predominantly, with more of a peach-pink tone used in the bedroom. "I used a piece of my Storylines art, which has a beautiful colour palette, as inspiration for the colour scheme and worked from there," she says. "I've also incorporated a lot of personal items into the décor – an eclectic mix of items I love. They are either of some sentimental value, or are pieces I've collected when travelling. I like to create living spaces that can be dressed up when entertaining, but are comfortable and informal if you're just at home relaxing with a book."

Industrial-style and repurposed pieces contrast nicely when sat next to designer items in the Richie home, a perfect example of which is the Phillippe Starck Ghost chairs that Yasemin has set around a rustic dining table made from old railway sleepers. Next to it, a large artwork hangs on display. "I have some odd pieces of art that I tend to change around regularly," she says. "My favourite at the moment is a detail of the Portrait of a Couple by an unknown French Master in the dining area. It took months to get the rights from the gallery to print



"I love decorating for Christmas. My dining table centrepiece is an animal skull-turned-flower arrangement. It's got a kind of 'Dia de Muertos' feel to it"



“To have this much outdoor space, which in other cities would pretty much be considered a garden, is a real luxury in an apartment”



Left: The large outdoor space, with its stunning views, was what initially attracted the couple to their apartment. Right: French-style furniture in the bedroom fits beautifully with the feminine scheme. Below: an example of Yasemin's Storylines artwork behind the piano.



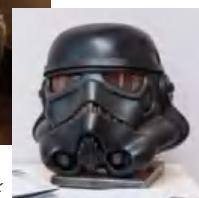
THE DETAILS



The Scarface armchair, designed by Yasemin.



Yasemin's Stormtrooper lamp,
Into My Eyes You Must Look



Wardrobe doors double as a pin board.



the image but it was worth it."

It is the living room, however, that Yasemin concedes as her favourite room. "I love our industrial-look Tom Dixon lamp and Tom Phipps bowler hat pendant lamps, along with the 'Flowers Grow Out Of Dark Moments' print by Magnus Gjoen, which features a gun contrasted with flowers."

When it came to decorating her office, Yasemin went for a slightly different approach. "It's nice to be able to work from home, but I needed a space that was a bit fresher and brighter than the rest of the apartment. I always have lots of images and fabrics around so I upholstered the room's fitted wardrobe doors and use them as a pin board now - basically anything that grabs my attention goes up there."

In the bedroom, a silk scarf by Alexander McQueen and Damien Hirst, fondly deemed too beautiful to wear by Yasemin, has been mounted on silk and framed, providing the inspiration for the room's colour scheme. A hand-carved armchair sits proudly on display having had its vintage frame restored, hand-painted and reupholstered in a faux-suede material. Flos Miss K table lamps by Phillippe Starck add a designer touch, while a chrome ladder nestles against a wall. "Sometimes people ask me why the ladder is there," smiles Yasemin, "and my answer is simply 'why not?'

It's true to say that the couple have pretty much been decorating and redecorating ever since they moved in. "It doesn't really stop,"

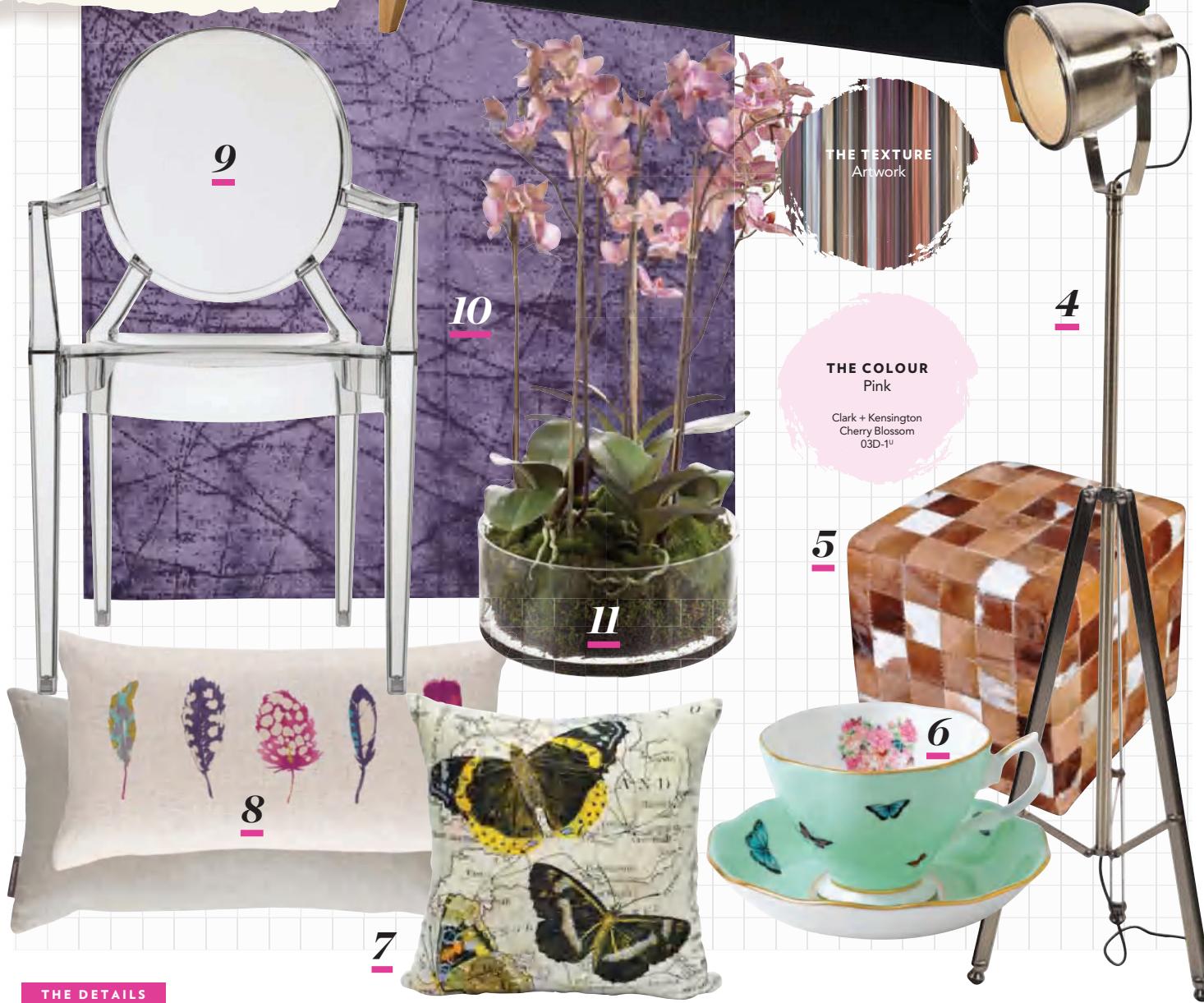
Yasemin muses. "When employed by a client you work to a specific concept and design, within a specific time frame, but with my own home it never works like that. I'm always changing things – and as soon as I think 'that's it, I'm finished', I'll be inspired by something else and start redesigning again. It means that the space is organic and it doesn't get static – there's always something new. Unfortunately, it also means that it's never quite finished."

The location and amenities were a huge selling point when the couple were looking to rent, but ultimately it was the surprisingly large outside terrace that was the true icing on the cake. "To have that much outdoor space, which in other cities would pretty much be considered a garden, is a real luxury in an apartment," says Yasemin. The outside area may have the perfect footprint, but inside, there are parts of the layout Yasemin admits she would like to change. "As we rent, I've not been able to change anything, but given the choice I'd have liked to open up the space to make it flow better, and then redesign the master bedroom with its walk-in wardrobe and bathroom to use the space more effectively," she says. "I find that quite often in Dubai, buildings go up so quickly that not much thought is given to the actual design of the interior. We're currently in the process of buying an identical apartment in the same development, with exactly the same floor plans. Now, after three years of living here and testing out the space, I know exactly what I'm going to do to our new apartment - I can't wait to get stuck in." ■■■



Get the look

Yasemin has mixed a soft colour palette and quirky accessories to reflect her style.



THE DETAILS

- Eternity metal and crystal chandelier, Dhs1,299, Home Centre
- Vanity antique rose candle, Dhs149, THE One
- Stockholm three-seater sofa in Sandbacka black, Dhs4,595, Ikea
- Talin floor lamp, Dhs1,195, THE One
- Cow hide cube, Dhs700, Ksl-living.fr
- Miranda Kerr set of four teacups and saucers, Dhs995, Jashanmal
- Butterfly embroidered cushion, Dhs89, Lifestyle
- Harlequin Amazilia cushion, from Dhs216, Walker Greenbank
- Kartell Louis Ghost chair, Dhs1,127, Design55online.co.uk
- Orchid rug in purple, POA, Calvin Klein Home
- Phalaenopsis plant, Dhs1,595, THE One.

Rustic Christmas

Phil and Philippa Heath's stone cottage in the Derbyshire countryside has understated Scandinavian style that sets the tone for a rustic Christmas

Photography BRENT DARBY / NARRATIVES Text and styling NAOMI JONES / NARRATIVES





In an old stone cottage, nestled amongst thick woodland on the edge of the Peak District, lives the Heath family, who start preparing for Christmas on the first day of December every year. "We absolutely love Christmas," says Philippa, mum of the family. "Phil and I got married in December, and my birthday is the week before Christmas, so it's a very special time. As soon as daylight

appears, Phil and one of the boys head out to pick a tree, and twigs and branches that I form into decorations such as heart shapes, stars or reindeer that I then paint white." The couple's children, Jack, Tom, Joe and Bess, also love to make bits and bobs from spare timber from the woodyard so no room is left unadorned and this warm home is transformed into a rustic winter wonderland ready to celebrate the season.

The interior of the Heaths' home is just as inventively decorated the rest of the year. With little spare cash, Phil and Philippa have made

Clockwise from right: The dining area is a light and inviting space for family and friends; The sitting room is flooded with light thanks to its triple aspect. Flooring was reclaimed from a school that was being demolished. Sofas were from friends and relatives; Heart card and photo wire stand from Amazon; Decorative objects always find a place in this home.



several pieces of furniture as well as collecting hand-me-downs, salvage finds and odd things dumped in skips and giving them clever make overs. "Good quality paint, like Farrow & Ball, can work wonders," says Philippa. "I'm constantly found with a paintbrush in my hand. Phil often jokes that he's scared to stand still in case I paint him too."

When the couple first moved into the house in 1992 the building needed much more than a quick lick of paint. "It was in a dreadful state," recalls Philippa, who had spent three years travelling around the world with Phil, a former Merchant Navy seaman. "We both grew up and have family near here, so when we were ready to settle in the UK to start a family, we focused our search on the local Derbyshire area." Although the 1800s structure they found was damp and neglected, the setting was magical and immediately won them over. "Money was tight after paying for the house from our savings," says Philippa, "and we had little left to pay for workmen so we had a go at most of the immediate repair work ourselves." At the same time, they knocked two of the three small bedrooms into one to make a decent master.

Since that initial renovation, the couple have gradually transformed the house as funds could be

re-saved and in between the arrival of each of the four children. The most dramatic change to the house was the two-storey extension, built by Phil in 2000 using reclaimed punched faced stone to match the original cottage; this gave the family a larger kitchen diner and a spacious third bedroom above. As the boys have grown up, this bedroom has since been divided into two, bringing the total number of bedrooms now to four. "Jack needed his own space as he got older," says Philippa. "At the same time, Bess said she didn't want to feel completely separate from the family so asked if we would take out a wall in her room so she could see down over the stairs and into the kitchen. She may change her mind and want more privacy when she becomes a teenager herself though."

As well as all that structural work, the house has had its floorboards stripped upstairs, salvaged flooring laid downstairs; all the rooms have been replastered; and the electrics and plumbing have been updated. Phil only called in the professionals for the latter two tasks, while he and Philippa have managed the rest and the decorating themselves. Understandably, having lived there 21 years, the house has been redecorated a number of times. Philippa has recently moved away from chintzy cottage style to a cooler, more sophisticated







"Phil and one of the boys head out to pick a tree, and twigs and branches that I form into decorations such as heart shapes, stars or reindeer that I then paint white."

Scandinavian feel. "Living in the countryside, with ducks and chickens, dogs, boots and wellies means we are never clean and tidy. But the lightness and brightness of Scandinavian style gives the illusion of cleanliness at least!"

Visitors to this home can be certain it will look a little different each time they stop by, such is the way this family and their home continually evolves, and there is always another job or two on the wish list. "I like the idea of a fireplace in our bedroom," says Philippa, "and there is a chimney we could open up; a picture window would give us a nice view of the woods from our bed too. Those are just dreams, though, more urgently we need to tackle the house roof, and the verandah, which needs maintenance to make it waterproof, and the garage needs to be made mouse proof... We love our





Clockwise from left: The Scandinavian feel continues in the bathroom. the bath was reclaimed from a field; vintage painted drawers in the bedroom; the stove provides warmth during colder months. Philippa is a big fan of Emma Bridgewater cups and teapots; open shelves and attractive storage work well in an open plan space; the large cupboard in the dining area was salvaged from the same school as the floorboards; the master bedroom was once two rooms, it now provides ample space for the couple's sanctuary. A simple bed has been embellished and dressed to create a smart four poster with drapes. The fabric came from Ikea.





"We visited Norway and Sweden recently, which inspired me to use rustic birch logs as tables and stools, logs and natural materials mixed with clean painted surfaces."



Clockwise: The off white theme continues in Bess's room, but red touches warm up the look for Christmas; a trio of logs makes attractive coffee table; the sitting room has a Scandinavian feel with painted wood combined with unfinished logs. Phil made the Gustavian style benches from odd pieces of wood.

home, but that's the reality of rural life, I'm afraid, most of the time it's not all that magical and romantic."

What will be magical are the festivities ahead. They have a large clan, so each Christmas they take turns to host around 20 family members, including eight youngsters. "It will be noisy and chaotic, but Phil and I look forward to time with the children and recapturing all those early days of sheer excitement and anticipation. I don't think we'd ever forget to put a mince pie out for Santa and a carrot for Rudolph." The children have their rituals too: they make a Christmas box filling it with their favourite decorations, uneaten gold coins and a letter to themselves for the following year. "It's amazing for them to open up the box and read their letters to see just how they and life have changed in 12 months," says Philippa. The house may be beautiful, the setting may be idyllic, but for the Heaths, it's who they share time with that's the most important thing at Christmas, and all year round. And that's the magic of this lovely family.



Get the look

Simple white furniture and cute, cosy accessories create a Scandi-inspired home.



THE DETAILS

1. **Angsø armchair**, Dhs395, Ikea
2. **Embroidered heart tree decoration**, Dhs29, Ace
3. **Medium swirl candlestick**, Dhs290, Ethan Allen
4. **Scandi wooden hearts**, Dhs17, TCH.net
5. **Knitted blanket**, Dhs419, Zara Home
6. **Cerise pillar candleholders**, Dhs419, and 7. **Beck tray**, Dhs249, both Crate and Barrel
8. **White antler chair**, Dhs1,700, Sweetpeaandwillow.com
9. **Tejn faux sheepskin**, Dhs65, Ikea
10. **Emma Bridgewater Rose Bee teapot**, Dhs335, Daisypark.co.uk or Harvest Home
11. **Double hanging heart decoration**, Dhs27, Wilko.co.uk
12. **Iittala Sarjaton cushion cover**, Dhs280, Jashanmal
13. **Stag cushion**, Dhs49, and 14. **Geometric large glass vase**, Dhs129, both H&M Home
15. **Gold burlap wreath**, Dhs99, Ace

Home for the Holidays

Create a chic look this festive season with Crate and Barrel's collection of decorations and accessories



Create a holiday mantel just like this, Just Like That™

Doria Hurricanes, from Dhs69;
Matte Ball Candle, Dhs25;
Antiqued Glass Lit Trees, from
Dhs179; Mercury Curved Pillar
Holders, from Dhs89;
Silver Reindeer, Dhs119;
Snowflakes, Dhs129; Jingle
Bell Garland, Dhs89 and
Angelique Stocking, Dhs89



MAGICAL METALLICS

Transform your home with on-trend, contemporary metallic decorations such as serveware, table decorations, place-settings, candles and tree accessories. Mixing gold and silver accents will create a warm welcome this festive season.





FINISHING TOUCHES

Create a holiday centrepiece for the coffee table, with flickering candlelight and glittering ornaments.



Silver Bark
frame, from
Dhs119



Silver Bubble
Glass Votive,
Dhs89



Get the Look

Flurry Stemless
Glass, Dhs35



Reindeer
Server, Dhs229

Nordic
Candle
Holder,
from Dhs25



Panache Pillow
in gold, Dhs201



Flurry Ivory
Pillow, Dhs285

Panache Pillow in
silver, Dhs201

Crate&Barrel

Decorate Darkly

Go for a dramatic look this Christmas by choosing a muted colour palette with flashes of jewel colours, metallics and candlelight.

Photography: SHARON HARIDAS Styling: ROSALIND ERSKINE AND DONNA WILLIAMS

Create a different centrepiece by using traditional wreaths, metallic accessories and candlelight.

Fairy lights, Dhs59 and LED cone tree with lights, Dhs79, both from Home Centre; leaf lantern, stylist's own; Smycka wreath, Dhs49, Ikea; white stars garland, Dhs29, Home Centre; red berry wreath, Dhs149, Ace; Vinter table runner, Dhs35, Ikea; copper tealight holders, from Dhs29, Home Centre; Allegra vase, Dhs145, Crate and Barrel; silver foliage, Dhs15, Home Centre.





This image: Diptyque winter candles, Dhs520, Bloomingdale's Home; scented candles, from a selection, and purple star glitter garland, Dhs29, both Home Centre; Shore wallpaper, Dhs672 per roll, Walker Greenbank. Right: mixed bouquet, Dhs400, Bliss Flowers; mini glass baubles, Dhs14, and glitter bird, Dhs15, Home Centre.



Right: Vinter bowls, Dhs12, Ikea; hanging bell wreath decoration, Dhs39, Home Centre; Liquid

Amber candle, Dhs335, Diptyque; fairy lights as before. Below: Geometric black lantern, stylist's own; copper tealight holders, as before; white and gold teacup and saucer, Dhs25, Home Centre; Vinter gift box, Dhs25 for 3, Ikea; Harlequin Vesta Moonstone wallpaper, Dhs684 per roll and Shore wallpaper, Dhs672 per roll, both Walker Greenbank.



A rose gold branch tree, hung with a selection of complementary coloured and patterned baubles will make a festive feature, especially against a dark backdrop.



TOP 5 CHRISTMAS DECORATING TIPS FROM THE ONE

1. We associate Christmas with specific fragrances. There's nothing like good scented Christmas candles spread around the house to get into the holiday spirit.
2. Flickering candlelight creates that cosy festive feeling. Group together different sized decorative candleholders and create a beautiful display for your dining table.
3. Drape strings of lights around your staircase balustrade or simply put them in a vase for magical holiday décor.
4. For the ultimate centrepiece, fill a large, clear glass vase with different baubles or fill jars with red and white peppermint balls for a playful look. Have fun!
5. Incorporate lanterns into your Christmas decoration and surround them with greenery and pinecones for a classic display.

Bohemian Christmas collection, Zara Home.

We Love... TOP TABLE DECORATIONS

Christmas is the perfect occasion to dress up your table so go for gold with some out-and-out glamour. Indigo Living's white and gold Sinatra and Kelly dinner plates, Dampierre wine glasses and flutes, Glitter Stripe crackers and Gold Holly candle rings are stunning against a backdrop of crisp white table linen.



Seasonal Styling

ISABELLE MBANDJA-MALANGUE, VISUAL MERCHANDISER FOR BLOOMINGDALE'S HOME - DUBAI, GIVES HER TOP TIPS FOR SPRUCING UP YOUR HOME THIS CHRISTMAS



WHAT ARE YOUR TOP TIPS FOR ORGANISING MY HOME THIS CHRISTMAS?

1. Decide if you want to go for a lavish and opulent look or if you prefer a more minimalist theme, and stick to it. Mixing both styles does not translate well visually.
2. If you choose the richer option, warm colours mixed with greens is more likely to give the impact you are expecting. For a minimalist approach select a maximum of three colours on the cold spectrum e.g. silver, grey and blue.
3. Make an inventory of what you already have in storage from last year and wish to re-use before going on your shopping spree!

WHAT ARE THE MAIN TRENDS THIS CHRISTMAS?

This season is all about cute and fun decoration items based on the fantasy of Santa's factory, edible decorations (such as candy canes and other

shapes), Nutcracker soldiers and a gingerbread storyline.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE DECORATIONS FOR A MODERN HOME?

For the minimal look, choose frosted glass 'icicles' from Kaemingk, which can be carried throughout your house, in addition to the tree / metal reindeer stocking holder from Kurt Adler. More opulent theme lovers must try the doughnut, lollipop or cupcake tree decorations from Kurt Adler. These represent opposite styles, whilst following the latest trends.

HOW CAN I USE LIGHTING IN MY HOME TO CREATE A FESTIVE LOOK?

The LED bead garlands from Kaemingk are a great choice. Hung vertically against your curtains, they will add a touch of magic to your décor. You can create a curtain of lights and hang it behind sheer white curtains for an elegant diffusion of light into your living room.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE FESTIVE SCENTS, WHICH WILL CREATE A WARM WELCOME IN MY HOME THIS MONTH?

The Balsam and Cedar candle sets by illume are fantastic to get into the festive mood. They bring real warmth to the room and would also make a great gift.



I'D LIKE TO COLOUR CO-ORDINATE MY TREE, WHAT COLOURS DO YOU SUGGEST?

I personally love accents of gold and purple and black, with touches of green.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DECORATION AND WHY?

This season I'm loving hanging bells, they are so versatile. You can use them throughout the house, for example as napkin rings, tree decorations, curtain holders etc.

CAN YOU SUGGEST SOME SIMPLE, ELEGANT TABLE DECORATIONS?

A combination of candle holders from Eichholtz creates a sleek and impactful statement for your festive table. Running a garland from Royal Christmas is a great option as well. They are already dressed with elegant baubles, which will save a lot of time.

WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST AS A CONTEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE TO A CHRISTMAS TREE?

The LED birch tree from Kaemingk, which comes in two sizes. If you combine a few of them together, they can create the most charming and unexpected Christmas tree.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY DINING ROOM PARTY-READY FOR A NEW YEAR DINNER?

In my opinion, New Year's Eve is the best time to indulge in a glitter fest! You can get a selection of oversized (giant) champagne or cocktail glasses from LSA, sprinkle them all with glitter, and place a candle in the middle. Illume has a wide range of seasonal scents to choose from. These decorative items can be used to add a touch of sparkle to your coffee tables, side tables, dining tables, anywhere really! They are really the perfect mood setter. ■■■■■



GORGEOUS GIFT



Long chiffon dress, Dhs99, H&M

Thin white necklace, Dhs200, Vince Camuto

Lulu Guinness



Beam nail varnish, Dhs110, Illamasqua



Elifie selfie jumper, Dhs99, H&M

Kisses gloss in Military Red, Dhs155, Burberry



BURBERRY



Jade maxi skirt, Dhs2,435, OTT



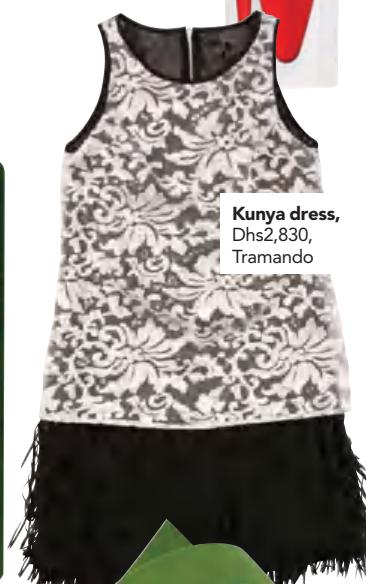
Charlotte Olympia sandals, Dhs3,900, Bloomingdale's



Amber Heritage cream, Dhs1,480, La Mer



Harrods exclusive fragrance, Dhs1,535, Harrods



Kunya dress, Dhs2,830, Tramando



Pomegranate Noir collection, Dhs520, Jo Malone

for HER

GUIDE 2015

Treat your whole family
(and home) with our edit of
the top gifts this Christmas



for HIM





Gold vases, from
Dhs250, Aati



for the HOME

FESTIVE FOOD

Indulge yourself this Christmas with these fab foodie destinations and ideas.



Café Nero

It wouldn't be Christmas without a festive coffee or two, so head over to Café Nero for their offerings, which include an indulgent Praline Latte. The Café is also dishing up festive snacks such as the Turkey and Cranberry Panini, mince pies, traditional fruit cake and moreish red velvet cake.

www.cafenero.com



Chez Charles

Enjoy your festivities alfresco with Chez Charles, a complete event management service for all culinary gatherings. Their services cater for all events and can include everything from bespoke menus to floral arrangements. Try them out this Christmas for a stress-free, unique meal with excellent service. Chez Charles also boasts an online shop selling the finest ingredients from seasonal vegetables to jam – perfect for all foodies this festive season.

www.chezcharles.ae



Eggspectation

Add some sweetness to your Christmas with the new menu items from JBR's Eggspectation. The sweet treats include orange and milk chocolate crepes, S'mores French toast and pumpkin pancakes with cinnamon and ginger.

www.eggspectation.com

Rivington Grill

Continue the Christmas indulgences with Rivington Grill's "Rivi Recovery" this Boxing Day. Offering a roast beef dinner and dessert with a choice of house beverages or Bloody Mary, this is an ideal way to unwind after the festivities within Souk Al Bahar. On Christmas Day, the restaurant has an exclusive set menu with

themed beverages to set the festive tone.

Rivington Grill's 'Rivi Recovery' – Boxing Day menu is available all day on Saturday, December 26 from 12noon till 11:15pm. Priced at Dhs175, the set menu offers roast beef, dessert, and a choice of house beverage or Bloody Mary.

www.jumeirah.com





The Ivy

Forget the stress and organisation of cooking a full Christmas dinner for all the family; choose The Ivy's turkey takeaway. The festive feast comprises hampers of roast turkey or roast beef with all the trimmings (all prepared and presented in a stylish box) and will feed up to 10 people. If you'd rather dine out this Christmas, The Ivy is also offering three dine-in seatings on Christmas Day and a menu packed full of traditional favourites.

The takeaway menu is available now and is priced from Dhs899. Orders have to be placed 48 hours in advance. The Ivy's Christmas Day menu starts from 11.30am and is priced from Dhs599.

www.jumeirah.com



Reform Social

Great British gastropub favourite, Reform Social, is bursting with brunches and breakfasts this month. Our top pick is the New Year's Eve Brunch, from Dhs425 on Thursday 31st December. Start the countdown to 2016 in the relaxed surroundings while tucking in to Great British favourites.

During Christmas Reform Social is offering a festive breakfast and Christmas Day brunch from Dhs415, party packages from Dhs120 and a Boxing Day breakfast, from Dhs78.

www.reformsocialgrill.ae



INSIDE LOOK

Zheng He's DUBAI.

Named after the Chinese explorer of the Ming Dynasty, Zheng He's offers a world of excellent Chinese fare and hospitality right at the heart of the Mina A'Salam hotel, located within Souk Madinat Jumeirah. Having recently reopened after a renovation, Zheng He's interior is now a theatrical mix of bright-red furnishings and seating, feature lighting (including red birdcage pendant lights) and Chinese-inspired accessories, furniture and cushions.

Dubbed by Jumeirah as the "Quintessential Oriental experience," Zheng He's location certainly can't be rivalled, with excellent views of the Burj Al Arab from the spacious outdoor terrace. The restaurant's reputation means its reopening was hotly anticipated and, as a result, was very busy when we visited on a Wednesday night.

After being seated at our alfresco table, which had uninterrupted views of the Burj Al Arab and the charming, passing Abras on the nearby waterway, we started our culinary journey. Zheng He's menu is extensive and split into starters, soups and broths, dim sum (steamed and fried), BBQ oven-roasted seafood, chicken, beef and lamb, vegetables, noodles, rice and finally, desserts. Ideal for sharing, we choose a selection of recommended dishes; Golden King Prawns with Chinese mustard and spicy mayo, Black Cod Dumplings with ginger, garlic and soy, followed by half a roasted Beijing Duck with Chinese pancakes, cucumber and spring onion that was expertly prepared at our table. Mains were shared sautéed scallops with chilli sauce, asparagus and lily bulbs and beef tenderloin with black pepper both served with egg-fried rice and wok-fried somen noodles. Each dish was expertly presented and utterly delicious, with a burst of flavours and textures that give a twist to classic Chinese dishes.

Despite being located in one of the top hotels in Dubai and offering a classy menu and venue, Zheng He's is not a pretentious haunt – the relaxed atmosphere made sure of that (although it can sometimes be a little too relaxed with regards to the service). Perfect for families, tourists and residents alike, it is ideal for anything from a mid-week meal to a celebration and, as with most Dubai dining destinations, has its own unique take on Friday brunch: the Duck Brunch.

WHERE

Mina A'Salam, Souk Madinat Jumeirah.

WE LOVE

The bright interior, birdcage lights, free fortune cookies on arrival and spacious dining areas.

STAY FOR

The location, especially if seated outside. Views of the Burj Al Arab are unparalleled.





The Palm is not short of 5* hotels – the iconic Atlantis and the oasis of the One&Only are first to spring to mind. But no collection of luxury hotels would be complete without the addition of one of the oldest and most-respected names: the Waldorf Astoria. Situated on the east crescent of the Palm, the grand and pristine white facade offers uninterrupted views over the Arabian Gulf to the nearby Dubai skyline. Inside the hotel, guests are greeted in the glamorous lobby and reception area, which features statement lighting, a neutral palette of cool creams and beige and marble floors and walls. Looking up, guests can see the glass lifts and decorative iron balconies of the floors above, which are home to the beautifully appointed bedrooms and suites. As with all Waldorf Astoria hotels, the signature clock, which is made from carved bronze, can be found in the lobby.

Our bright and spacious Waldorf Astoria Suite, which was larger than some one-bed apartments, was an immaculate example of Waldorf style. The light cream, subtle metallics and blue colour palette evokes a Mediterranean feel but with subtle Arabesque touches in the prints and accessories. Inside you'll find a living room, large dining table, separate kitchen area, master bedroom with double-height leather headboard and large, marble-clad en suite with large bath tub, double shower and sinks. Signature Salvatore Ferragamo toiletries are available in abundance. The luxe interior includes high-end finishes, sumptuous silk soft furnishings and all the mod cons in the flatscreen TVs, a Nespresso maker and

HIP HOTELS

At Home

THE PALM, DUBAI.

Waldorf Astoria

Escape for the weekend to this luxurious retreat

aqua bathroom television. Not that there is any time to watch TV when faced with the beautiful views from the full-length private balcony, complete with loungers and dining area.

Access to the Waldorf Lounge is included in a selection of room bookings, including all suites. The lounge offers guests yet more stunning views over the resort, across the private beach and out to the Arabian Gulf. A buffet breakfast, light snacks and pre-dinner drinks can be enjoyed in the lounge, which also has complimentary magazines and newspapers and its own private balcony.

With six dining options, there is something for all tastes. We enjoyed a delicious dinner at the signature restaurant, Social by Heinz Beck. The world-renowned, three-star Michelin chef has created a contemporary Italian menu, which features favourite dishes, such as the fabulous Fagottelli Carbonara from his original restaurant





found within the Waldorf Astoria in Rome. The relaxed yet elegant restaurant continues the hotel's luxurious yet understated decorative style and, again, offers views over the grounds to the stunning Dubai skyline. Post-dinner drinks were enjoyed in the theatrical Serafina bar, which features luxe velvet furnishings, signature cocktails and live entertainment.

For snacks and afternoon tea, Peacock Alley is a must-visit. Another signature of the hotel brand, Peacock Alley is named after the famous tea lounge in the New York hotel and overlooks the hotel's central gardens.

Although Dubai has an abundance of luxurious hotels on offer, the Waldorf Astoria stands out thanks to its tradition and signature style, not to mention its unparalleled location.

<http://waldorfastoria3.hilton.com>

Tony Birch Spring 2016 (Photo by Slaven Vlasic/Getty Images for Tony Birch)

GET THE LOOK IN BRIEF

The Accessories

Malabar blue rug, Dhs2,620, **The Rug Company**

Adrienne lamp, Dhs450, **Blanc D'Ivoire Dubai**

Silk and pearl cushion, Dhs640, **Ethan Allen**

Fujikawa fabric cushions, Dhs265, **Sedar**

The Colours

The Look



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On the web
www.lochlomondarmshotel.com

While visiting the small conservation town of Luss by Loch Lomond (situated literally on the bonnie bonnie banks), you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd stepped back in time. The immaculate cottages, quaint General Store, well-kept gardens and small jetty on the loch have all been perfectly preserved in this charming village, which is only a 40-minute drive from Glasgow. At the heart of Luss is the Loch Lomond Arm Hotel. Formerly an 18th-century coaching inn, the hotel has recently been given a makeover to become a cosy country gastropub with 15 rooms on-site (self catering cottages are also available).

The interior of the hotel is a mix of modern and traditional. Downstairs the bar, restaurant and library are decorated in a muted palette of Farrow & Ball hues in greens on the part tongue-and-groove walls. The dark wooden floors, tartan curtains, open log-burning fires, mismatched, aged wooden chairs, benches and sofas and an eclectic collection of vintage country-scene artworks, stags heads, various taxidermy and Victorian decorative accessories and knick-knacks dotted around give a nod to the history of the hotel and location. If you had to picture a traditional Scottish country pub, this may well be what you'd imagine.

Upstairs and in the separate coach house, the rooms, which are named after Scottish clans, continue a similar classic theme but with brighter tones. Woolen tartan throws, antique furniture, vintage prints and a palette of creams, blues and pinks are found on the walls and furnishings. Our Colquhoun room (named after the clan and family who have owned the Luss estate since the 13th century), found on the first floor with views of the surrounding hills, was a vision in pink thanks to the traditional-style, striped canopied king bed, cream and pink floral cushions and curtains. An antique wardrobe and dressing table, mirror and fireplace (with working gas fire for cooler nights) complete the traditional-styled room. The en suite, however, is a modern-day addition thanks to the classic Villeroy & Boch tub, basin and separate shower. Toiletries are, surprisingly, French – Cinq Mondes Spa Paris. All expected added extras are available in the room, from



Clockwise from left: The hotel's exterior; the Colquhoun Room; a selection of homemade sweet treats; a traditional Scotch egg; the outdoor dining area; The Lomond Room.



a hairdryer and toothpaste to shortbread biscuits and tea.

The hotel's kitchen and menu has also been given a revamp. Newly appointed Head Chef Allan McLaughlin has taken advantage of the brilliant fresh, local bounty available from the surrounding natural larder. Fresh vegetables and fruit come from nearby Camstradden garden (the current Laird's home). Thanks to the available produce, the restaurant menu changes seasonally and often, daily, thanks to morning deliveries (when we stayed the chef had just received a whole deer, which he transformed into the tastiest venison wellington we've tasted).

Despite being a small village there is plenty to do in Luss and the surrounding area, which the hotel has taken advantage of with a range of experiences that can be organised by the helpful staff. Guests can explore the beautiful surroundings and find out more about what the area has to offer thanks to the hotel's Natural Larder food and drinks packages. These include two nights' dinner (one special tasting menu with matched beverages), lunch, bed and breakfast, a trip to visit the gardens, farm and a Loch Lomond boat tour, plus talks from the hotel's experts such as their gardener, fisherman and chef. A trip to a local distillery can also be arranged. Visitors can find out more about the whisky, how it is made and see first-hand the distilling process – all while enjoying a dram.

But if you'd rather relax, we recommend a trip to the nearby Carrick Spa, which offers a 5* thermal experience including steam rooms, jacuzzis, swimming pool and, the piece de resistance, an infinity pool on the roof, which overlooks Ben Lomond.

This hotel is the perfect mix of historical and modern and is taking full advantage of its location to create a unique, natural retreat.

The Look

The Accessories

Patterned bedlinen, from Dhs395, [Noel-Paris.com](#)

Checked blanket, Dhs155, [Zara Home](#)

Mulberry candle, Dhs110, [houseology.com](#)

Floral metal basket, Dhs19, [Homes R Us](#)

The Colours



Ask A Designer

Lynsey Jean Henderson

Specialising in hand and screen-printed wallpapers and bespoke murals, the Scottish designer talks to us about her beautiful creations.

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS? WHEN DID YOU ESTABLISH IT AND HOW HAS IT GROWN SINCE?

I established my design studio in 2010 initially as a dedicated hand designed and screen printed wallpaper design company. I won many awards for my designs and worked on lots of incredible projects most notably on a restoration project at Kelburn Castle on an original William Morris wallpaper. In the last two years the business has developed to also specialise in bespoke wall murals for the commercial and private markets. Basically wherever there is a wall or a blank space I can create something unique for it, be it a hand designed screen printed wallpaper or hand painted mural.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST PIECE/COLLECTION?

My most recent commercial piece was an outdoor floor mural which incorporated lots of beautiful wildflowers and foliage at a prestigious new bar in Edinburgh, The Copper

Blossom. It was a challenge creating a 15ft by 4 ft floor mural outside but well worth it when the finished design was revealed at the celebrity opening in Edinburgh.

HOW WERE YOU INSPIRED TO PURSUE YOUR DESIGN WORK?

It has been a natural progression from my love of drawing as a child. I simply couldn't imagine doing anything else. I am incredibly grateful that I am able to make a living doing what I love. Being creative is in my soul and even if I had to finance my life in another way, I would still be creative in my personal time. Being creative and drawing is my medicine.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT CREATING YOUR PRODUCTS?

Research, research, research!!! I essentially turn myself into a creative sponge and soak up all the sounds, sights and smells related to my brief or chosen personal project. I completely immerse myself in the project

that I am working on so that the designs come from a true and authentic place. I always want my work, be it personal or commercial, to have a grass root connection to something honest. So if I am designing a Turkish bar interior I will live and breathe all things related to the Turkish lifestyle; traditional and modern. I have often linked my style of creating to that of a method actor. The method actor immerses himself in his character and I do the same for the piece of work I am crafting at that time.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE AND WHY?

My favourite piece of work was a painting I created for a private commission. The client wanted to commission a stag painting for his wedding anniversary. The painting incorporated all my favourite elements into one piece; nature, colour and textiles. The fact that it was a gift of love from a husband to a wife meant that even before the painting was created, it had a great presence to it simply due

to the thought and love behind its commission.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST INSPIRATION?

Colour. It sings to me, evokes emotions instantaneously and can change the energy of an environment instantly. It is a silent language that everyone speaks. I have friends who are colour blind yet they can still sense different colours and what they mean to them. I do not think colour blindness silences the language of colour, it just sings from a different hymn sheet.

BEST DECORATING TIP?

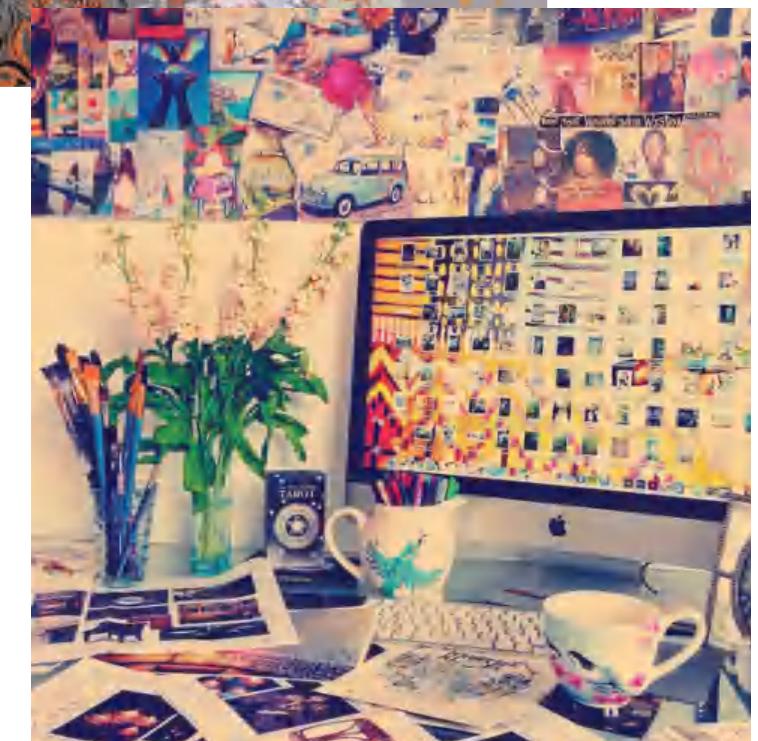
Do what you love and let your home express who you are, this means being brave and not following trends. You will love your home and its style for much longer if you choose items and colours that you adore.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR COMPANY?

Continuing to work on client projects, illustrating and writing the studio's first book. |||||



"I always want my work, be it personal or commercial, to have a grass root connection to something honest"



Find out more about
Lynsey and her work at:
www.lynseyjeanhenderson.me



Ask an Expert

THIS MONTH: CHRISTMAS DECORATING

MICHELLE DINSMORE, HEAD OF VISUAL MERCHANDISING, HOME CENTRE

WHAT DOES THE FESTIVE SEASON MEAN FOR YOU AND YOUR HOME?

I always look forward to the holiday season with absolute joy. Sometimes the slightest touches you add to your favourite space can bring back fond memories from the past.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING?

Add a splash of colour! Hues of purple mixed with gold is a fresh way to give your home a fun look for this holiday.

Animals have made a comeback this season, with a menagerie of animals such as miniature polar bears, stags and reindeers making a fun appearance in stores. Small additions like these on your coffee table, stairwell, or on your tree could not

only bring some cheerful vibes to the room, but add a bit of whimsy as well.

Serve your delicious festive meals and treats on seasonal coloured trays and plates. Opt for shades of cherry red and silver or gold to bring that extra touch to your dining table.

ARE THERE ANY TRENDS THIS FESTIVE SEASON?

Decorating your home with smaller, more festive themed decoration has become a trend this season. Miniature Santas and colourful snowmen are guaranteed to bring the festive season to your shelves and coffee/side tables.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP FIVE DECORATIONS FOR A MODERN HOME?

- Bring in bold colours;

add a few patterned pillows or warm throws to your living room to make it more inviting while maintaining a sleek modern look.

- Instead of traditional coffee tables, introduce some geometric-themed side tables and cabinets for a more contemporary or modern look.
- Fill up your glass vases and bowls with unexpected and fun baubles to add an edgier touch to your rooms.
- Living succulents are eco-friendly, low maintenance and an excellent modern festive decorating idea. Arrange a few in a centrepiece, or go big with a wreath or garland; however you use these hardy, low-water plants, you can enjoy them long after Christmas is over.
- The latest LED string

lights and fixtures illuminate rooms and objects in new ways. Go big with your light show; the more you use, the cooler the effect.

HOW CAN I USE FESTIVE LIGHTING IN MY HOME?

Weave fairy lights through your shrubs, chandelier, and tree for a magical effect in your home. In addition, introduce some shaded lamps and candles for an added touch of elegance.

ARE THERE ANY TOP SEASONAL SCENTS THAT YOU'D RECOMMEND? (CANDLES, DIFFUSERS ETC)

Pine, cinnamon, holly or freesia scents and oils are easy to find and make coming home a trip back into your childhood. Not

only will they make your home smell lovely, but they'll take your festive theme to a new level.

I'D LIKE TO CO-ORDINATE MY TREE, WHAT COLOURS DO YOU SUGGEST?

White, red, gold and silver are traditional colours to introduce on your tree, but don't be afraid to add a little bit of blue or purple to your mix for an extra touch of vibrancy.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DECORATION AND WHY?

I like decorating my tree in shades of white and silver, but with different materials to add texture. It keeps that traditional look but still feels modern.

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My Space

EMMANUELLE SAWKO & ALEXANDRA DE MONTAUDOUIN

OWNERS OF COMPTOIR 102, DUBAI

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE BUSINESS?

Comptoir 102 is a real joint effort. We always try to do things and make decisions together as much as we can. We make all the key strategic decisions related to the business together and we also do all the buying for the store together. However, since the business has grown, we have definitely started to need to split the tasks. We also have a great team supporting us and we have trained them to handle the day-to-day tasks.

TELL US ABOUT THE IDEA BEHIND THE BRAND.

The Comptoir 102 concept is a reflection of our lifestyles and, more importantly, of us. When we started discussing the idea, we were trying to find a new and original concept to bring to Dubai. The brands we carry are exclusive to the store and not available anywhere else in Dubai. Moreover, Comptoir 102

is a true representation of how we live – the designers we wear, the homeware and accessories we have in our personal collections, the way we live and even the dishes we cook at home!

Ultimately, we wanted to create a concept which was elegant, promoted a healthy lifestyle and continues to surprise Dubai. From the brands we love, to sharing recipes which have been passed down to us from our mothers, we wanted to create a space where people really feel at home as soon as they walk through the door.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTERIOR STYLE?

ALEX: Comfortable, colorful and beautiful, one of a kind pieces.

EMMA: Bohemian chic. I love art so there are a lot of contemporary pieces throughout my home along with a few design items and a mix of pieces I have picked up throughout my travels.

HOW DO YOU DECORATE YOUR HOME AT CHRISTMAS?

ALEX: LED trees, soft colours and lots of candles.

EMMA: Christmas tree, candles and good food with family.

FAVOURITE THREE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND WHY?

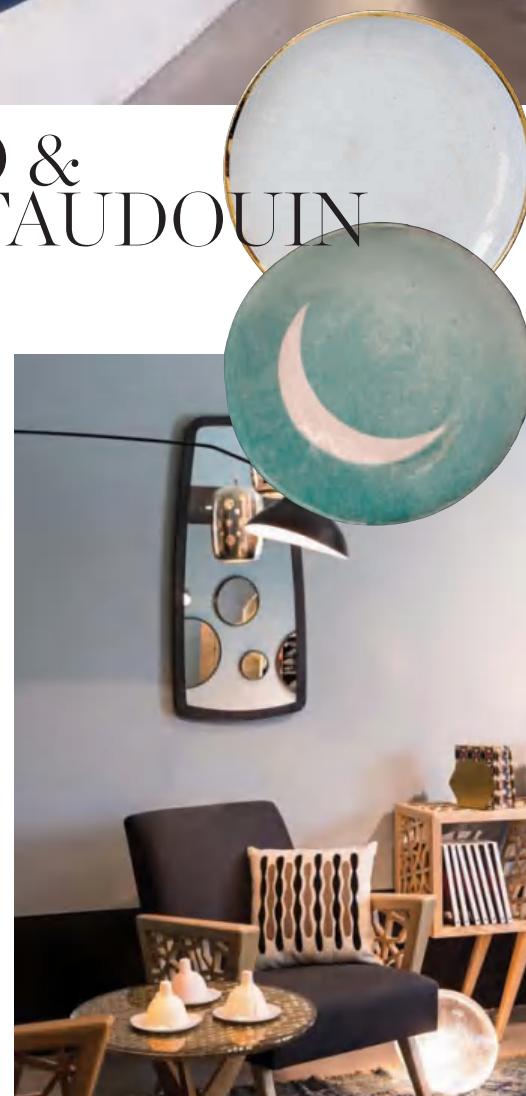
ALEX: We are all about LED! LED lights, LED trees and a few branches of a real Christmas tree for that Christmas smell.

EMMA: I like to keep it simple; the less there is the better. I like to use a lot of white candles throughout the space, mandarins in my decorations and of course gifts!

DO YOU HAVE ANY PREFERRED INTERIOR BRANDS?

ALEX: I love to mix and match – India Mahdavi, Nada Debs and Astier De Villate are some of my absolute favourites.

EMMA: Paula Navone, Le Deun and Caravanne



are among my favourite designers.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR BUSINESS/YOU?

Comptoir 102 is always evolving. We have lots of plans to bring in new brands, designers and artists, which is of course something that we would

love to continue doing. We always love to surprise our guests with new dishes using fresh and new ingredients. We also have a lot of fantastic projects and collaborations planned for 2016, which we are very excited to unveil, so watch this space!

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Alex: Aesthetically-inclined, balanced & modern. Emma: Rock, cool & elegant

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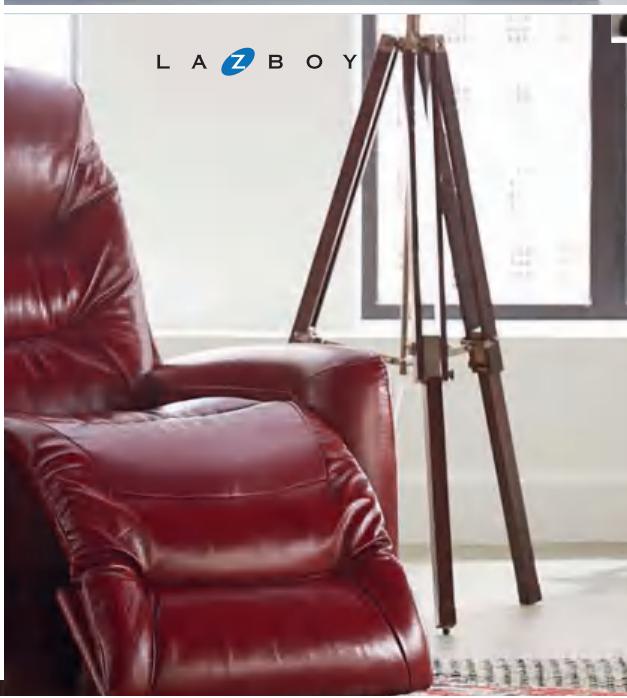


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